

# Visa and permits

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**To enter the Netherlands for study purposes, nationals from most countries need a visa. Once in the Netherlands, a residence permit or a work permit is often required. Here you can find out which requirements apply to you and how you go about arranging things.**

An entry visa is a sticker placed in your passport at the Dutch embassy or consulate in your own country (or the country in which you legally reside), but it must be applied for well in advance.

For a stay of up to three months, you might need a 'short stay visa' (*Visum Kort Verblijf*), depending on your nationality. If you will be staying for longer than three months, you might need a 'provisional residence permit' (*Machtiging tot Voorlopig Verblijf*, or *MVV*). This requirement does not apply to citizens of the EU/EEA and Switzerland, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan, Vatican City, Monaco or South Korea.

## Short or long stay

There are three elements which are important to find out which procedures apply to you:

- your nationality,
- the length of your stay and
- your purpose of stay.

The starting point on this website is your nationality. The second step is the length of your stay. If you are staying for three months or less, different rules apply than when you will be in the Netherlands for longer than three months.

We advise you to fill in the Student Visa Wizard first before you read more. This way you can find out which procedures apply to you on account of your nationality and the duration of your stay.

Go to the Student Visa Wizard.

# Student Visa Wizard E

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**Students from all other countries. Here you can read which procedures apply to you.**

## Entry visa

- *For a stay of up to three months:*

You need a short-stay visa

(VKV) to enter the Netherlands. You have to apply for this in person at the Dutch embassy or consulate in your home country (or the country in which you legally reside).

- *For a stay of more than three months:*

You need a 'provisional residence permit' (machtiging tot voorlopig verblijf, MVV). Your host institution may seek advice from the IND concerning your application for an MVV. If the advice of the Dutch Immigration Service (IND) is favourable, you then have to apply for the actual MVV yourself at the Dutch embassy or consulate in your home country, or the country in which you legally reside. The embassy or consulate will then issue you with the MVV in the form of a sticker placed in your passport. It is extremely important that you have this visa before travelling to the Netherlands! Until 1 August 2008, you can also apply for an MVV without the help of your host institution. However, this procedure takes longer and is more expensive.

## Formalities on arrival

- *For a stay of up to three months:*

You are required to report to the local immigration authorities (Aliens Police) within three days of your arrival. Read how to report to the Aliens Police.

- *For a stay of more than three months:* You are required to report to the local immigration authorities (Aliens Police) within three days of your arrival. You also need to register with the municipality (*Gemeentelijke Basisadministratie*, GBA) as an inhabitant of the local municipality within five days of your arrival. Furthermore you need to apply for a **residence permit**. Your host institution (university or university of applied sciences) can apply for the permit on your behalf, but until August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, you can also do it yourself. In case you stay in the Netherlands for a traineeship or to get work experience you have to go to the IND office in the region where you reside.

## Work permit (Tewerkstellingsvergunning: TWV)

You do need a work permit before you may work in the Netherlands. The following academic activities, among others, count as working: lecturing, doing a student traineeship or work placement, conducting research, and pursuing a doctorate or PhD (as A/O, for example). The employer must apply to the Central Organisation for Work and Income for your work permit.

If you have a residence permit for study purposes you may earn money on the side. Such work must be either seasonal (in June, July and/or August) or comprise no more than ten hours a week. Also in this case, your employer must apply for a work permit for you.

## Registering with the university

You need to register at your host institution (university or university of applied sciences) when you arrive, not only for getting your class schedules, but also to comply with immigration procedures. The host institution will want to see proof that you have reported to the Aliens Police/the municipality and, if applicable, applied for a residence permit.

## Health insurance

You must be insured against the cost of medical treatment. This is a requirement under Dutch law.